

of the Scheme they have projected to supply & carry out provisions for the Troops that we may see what we have to expect or depend on. Upon reconsidering the method I proposed for the Carriage of the provisions & the Calculations that I inclosed to you in my last, I think the Expence might be greatly diminished by having some of the Meat dried & the rest packed in Casks containing only 100 lbs of Salted Meat which will be portable on Horses which can carry 200 lb each beside their provender. the Difficulty we should be under of getting or hiring a sufficient number of waggons I think recommends this method & the Consideration of the Accidents that Carriages are subject to, & that Horses can more easily avoid any party of the Enemy that might happen to be sent to intercept them than waggons which cannot divert from the beaten Track tho they should receive Intelligence of the Enemy's Approach still makes this method I think more Eligible, however I leave that to the Commissaries whose Care it will be to calculate the Expences of every Method & pursue that which appears most frugal. The Salt you mention was sent from Rock Creek last week & I suppose that as soon as proper Receptacles can be prepared the Cattle that are to be slaughtered this winter should be driven to the Camp & there killed & cured, how the Skins & Tallow is to be disposed of you do not mention but I doubt not you will give Instructions to the Commissaries as to that matter. Tho the Country people should be prevailed on to stall feed their Cattle this winter & engage to drive a considerable number out to the Troops in the Summer as they shall be wanted, yet I think enough Salt provision to serve the Troops 5 or 6 months is the least that ought to be now laid in, & the Troops after they leave Wills-Creek must never be without enough to serve them at least 3 Weeks or a Month. the Casks may be returned to the Magazine as they are emptied & will serve to inclose such Meat as may be pickled in Troughs there but the Consideration & management of that I leave entirely to the Commissaries. I should be glad to have your answer concerning what is to be done with respect to that Johnson mentioned in my last & his Beeves, whether you will order them to be received of him or whether I shall have it signified to him that He must seek out another market. Cresap acquaints me that He has purchased 29138 lb of pork & 13197 lb of Beef already cured & in Barrel at his house more than will supply our Company for 12 Months, this & 64 Beeves still alive he ventured to purchase as I mentioned before on a Supposition that there might be some Difficulty to procure & lay up a sufficient Quantity for the Troops at this late Season & imagining it would be very acceptable to whoever should be appointed to act as Commissary to have such a

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